

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04054 261011Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5553
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USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4054

EXDIS

BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY VANCE
US NATO FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: THE DISSIDENT SCENE ON EVE OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL

SUMMARY: ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US AS OF
MID-DAY MARCH 26, A ROUND-UP OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS HAS NOT YET
TAKEN PLACE, SOME ACTIVISTS ARE BEING SURVEILLED BUT SO FAR NOT
IN A HARRASSING MANNER, AND WE KNOW OF NO SPECIFIC INTENTION TO
SEEK A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OR MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT ATTORNEY EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS HAS ASKED
MRS. GINZBURG TO CALL HIM FROM MOSCOW MARCH 28. END SUMMARY.

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1. OUR ONTACTS WITH MOSCOW-BASED DISSIDENTS DISCLOSE NO
UNUSUAL ACTIVITY BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AS OF MID-DAY
MARCH 26. WE KNOW OF SEVERAL ACTIVISTS - ORLOV GROUP MEMBER
YURIY MNYUKH, THE WIVES OF ORLOV AND GINZBURG - WHO ARE
BEING CAREFULLY BUT NOT HARASSINGLY SURVEILLED. THIS IS
PROBABLY TRUE FOR OTHER ACTIVISTS.

2. TO DATE WE HAVE HEARD OF NO SPECIFIC INTENTION BY HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TO SEEK A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OR MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY OR TO STAGE A DEMONSTRATION OR PROTEST DURING THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT.

3. GINZBURG'S WIFE, A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND THOUGHTFUL WOMAN, TOLD US THE EVENING OF MARCH 25 THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM ATTORNEY EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS (SHE DID NOT SAY HOW) THAT SHE SHOULD TRY TO TELEPHONE HIM LATE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 28. SHE SUPPOSES THAT WILLIAMS MAY INTEND TO PUBLICIZE THE CALL IN CONNECTION WITH SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN MOSCOW, BUT SAYS SHE REALLY DOES NOT KNOW WHAT WILLIAMS HAD IN MIND.

4. MRS. GINZBURG NOTED THAT IN HER VIEW THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD ACHIEVED MANY OF THEIR AIMS IN THEIR CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT. SHE SAID THE ORLOV GROUP HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED TO EXIST: ALMOST ALL OF ITS DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED, AND ONLY TWO GROUP "ACTIVISTS" (SHE DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH TWO) ARE AT LIBERTY IN MOSCOW. JEWISH ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN SUBDUED BY THE LIZVESTIZA "EXPOSE" AND OTHER RECENT MEDIA ITEMS LINKING REFUSENIKS WITH ZIONISM AND "EVIL IMPERIALIST CIRCLES." DESPITE THEIR UNFOUNDED NATURE, SUCH ITEMS HAVE A GREAT EFFECT, SHE EXPLAINED, BECAUSE THEY INDICATE THAT CHARGES CAN BE TRUMPED UP AGAINST VIRTUALLY ANYONE. SHE ALSO SAID THAT SOVIET SUPPORTERS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN THE MOSCOW AREA, WHO IN THE PAST HAD BEEN WILLING TO LEND A HAND, NOW TEND TO AVOID CONTACT WITH

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THE ACTIVISTS.

5. SHE APPLAUDED THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS BUT SAID SHE NOW FELT ONLY "QUITE DIPLOMACY" COULD BRING SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO RELEASE HER HUSBAND FROM PRISON AND EXPEL HIM FROM THE USSR.

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